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August 11, 2005

Jerry Vap, Chairman
Nebraska Public Service Commission
300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street
P.O.Box 94927
Lincoln, NE 68509-4927

RE: Application No. 911-014/PI-99
Comments on LR 143

Dear Chairman Vap:

Please enter these comments into the record for Application No. 911-014/PI-99 regarding LR 143, the Legislature's interim study on landline and wireless 911.

All Nebraska counties provide some type of 911 coverage to help protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state. Counties supported the adoption of 911 surcharges on landlines and wireless service to help fund what would otherwise be an obligation of property tax payers. However, landline collections are decreasing due to the number of cell phone users who have eliminated or not installed wirelines, as well as users of voice over internet and other advanced technologies. Regardless of the amount of landline collections, the public safety answering points (PSAPs) that are operated by counties and municipalities must continue to operate. All calls, whether generated from a landline or wireless phone, must be answered. Any increased costs become the responsibility of the county or municipality and as such, an increased burden on property taxes. Counties would ask the Commission to consider making a portion of the cell phone surcharge or any increase in the surcharge available to counties to help fund fundamental operational expenses.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

Sincerely,



Larry J. Dix
Executive Director